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SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government of Madras have any connection with the Madras Race Club either as members or visitors? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I cannot say that the Government of Madras have no connection with the Madras Race Club. It has got its own representative on it and for other information the hon. Member can address elsewhere."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த ஸ்தாபனம் மொத்தத்தில் லாபகரமாக இருக்கிறதா, நஷ்டத்தில் வேலை செய்கிறதா ? ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட பகுதியில் நஷ்டம் வருகிறது என்பதற்காக தொழிலாளிகளை வேலையிலிருந்து நீக்குவது நியாயம்தானா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" எதோ ஒரு செக்ஷனில் லாபம் இல்லை என்று தொழிலாளர்களை நீக்குவது என்பது அல்ல பிரச்னை. அந்த செக்ஷனை இப்பொழுது எடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்தத் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கு வேலை இல்லை என்பதால்தான் அவர்களை நீக்கியிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று அரசாங்கம் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறது."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that before retrenchment notices were served on the workers, the Police Sub-Inspector of Saidapet and other Police people were brought to the Club and then only the retrenchment notices were given to the workers? If so, is it not interference by the Police Department in the normal trade union activities and is it the policy of the Government to depute the Police whenever retrenchment notices are given? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have no such information and, therefore, the question of policy does not arise."

Indian Arms Amendment Bill.

* 1097 [a] *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the opinion of the Inspector-General of Police of this State has been sent by this Government to the Central Government regarding the Indian Arms Amendment Bill, moved by Mr. Patnaik in Parliament ; and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the report will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) It will not be in the public interest to place a copy of the report on the table of the House."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in the report mentioned by the Hon. Minister the Inspector-General of Police used the adjective ' anti-social ' to describe Members of the Legislatures which include the Honourable Speakers also. The report was made public and it was distributed among Members of Parliament. Sir,

[a] Starred question postponed from the list for 4th March 1955.

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may I know how the placing of a report on the table of this House which has already been made public will be opposed to public interest?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not know whether the report was published and whether a correct one was published. Anyhow it is not in the public interest to disclose the contents of this report."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government have got any information that the report sent by the Inspector-General of Police was circulated to Members of Parliament?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have no information, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in the case of confidential communications, they are not usually divulged without the knowledge and the consent of the other party. This report has of course been made public. I shall read the report of the proceedings of the Lok Sabha, dated the 13th December 1954 from 'The Hindu', dated the 14th December 1954. I wanted to get the official report of the proceedings but it is not available."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I do not think that reports from newspapers can be read in the House. I do not think it is permissible."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, I am referring to it just for the purpose of showing that this report has been divulged in Parliament and circulated among the Members of Parliament and not for any other purpose. Especially when it is known that the document is in the possession of the opposite party . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Who is the opposite party?"

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Here in this case it is the Government. The Government have now been asked to place this report on the table of the House. In these circumstances, I am entitled to rely on secondary and other circumstantial evidence to show that it has been circulated."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is enough if the hon. Member mentions the date of 'The Hindu' and the number of the page on which it has been published."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, it has been published in 'The Hindu', dated the 14th December 1954, under a report from New Delhi, dated the 13th December 1954. It is patent that it has been made public and circulated among the Members of Parliament. In that case, is not this House entitled to know what is contained in that report?"

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I have not seen the report in 'The Hindu'. Still, I do not think it will be in the public interest to place this document on the table of the House."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the fact is that the substance of this report was made known to the Members of Parliament. Anything which has been made known to the Members of Parliament naturally becomes the possession of everyone in the country whoever he is. Therefore, in view of the fact that the substance of this report has been made known and in view of the apprehensions and doubts expressed in regard to it and instead of relying on misleading reports, will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to see that the report is made public in order to clear up the whole matter?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition should appreciate that this has reference to a matter which is purely within the Centre's sphere, the Arms Act and the rules thereunder. The Government of India wanted the opinion of this Government and the officers of this Government. We have forwarded the report to the Government of India and it is for the Government of India to utilise it in whatever way they like but it is not possible for this Government to place a copy of it on the table of the House."

8-40 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" On a point of order, Sir. This raises an important issue. In cases of confidential communications between one Department and another or between this Government and the Central Government, I agree that they are confidential provided they are not made public. Now, we want protection not only against Ministers but against other officers also. Confidential communications are not generally revealed without the consent of the other party. Therefore, from the fact that this document was revealed to the Members of the Parliament, we presume that it was done with the knowledge or the consent of this Government. Therefore, may I ask, whether in such cases where confidential information is said to have been made public this House is entitled to compel the Government to give information?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" May I know whether the hon. Member is putting it as a question to be answered by the Hon. Minister or as a point of order?"

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" I want your ruling on this point, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I must go through all the facts mentioned by the hon. Member. The hon. Member has quoted something from a newspaper in this connection, and I must go into that also. Let the hon. Member send all the concerned papers. I will examine them and then give a ruling on this matter."